

# LEO FRANK NEAR DEATH, THROAT CUT BY CONVICT WHO 'THOUGHT IT RIGHT'

## ATTACK ON ORDUNA TO CAUSE STIFFENING OF NOTE TO GERMANY

Submarine's Act Intensifies Gravity of Situation—America Looks For It To Be Disavowed—Change In Berlin Policy Is Doubtful—Oral Promises Questioned.

CORNISH, N. H., July 18.—President Wilson, accompanied only by Dr. Grayson, leaves here this afternoon, and will arrive in Washington tomorrow morning about 9 o'clock.

A situation of increased gravity faced officials today as evidence accumulated concerning the German submarine attack upon the Cunard liner Orduna, which had more than twenty American passengers aboard.

Pessimism again invaded Administration circles. If the official investigation bears out earlier reports of the submarine's desperate attempt to sink the liner, the tenor of the reply to the latest German note may be vitally affected.

The attack without warning, unless it be speedily disavowed by the German government, can but intensify the already critical and strained relations between the two governments. Such an attack is at variance with the position taken by the American Government and the supposed change in policy on the part of Germany.

The Orduna incident comes at a time when officials had grown optimistic regarding the possibilities of an agreement between the United States and Germany on the subject of the future conduct of Germany's submarine warfare. Secretary Lansing, after his conference with Ambassador von Bernstorff, intimated that an "oral understanding" might be possible, and this was construed to mean that Germany, regardless of views expressed in diplomatic correspondence, might orally assure this Government that no more American lives would be jeopardized.

### AGAIN DISREGARDS U. S. RIGHTS.

Now comes the claim of officers and passengers of the Orduna that a torpedo narrowly missed the liner as she neared Liverpool, and she barely escaped the fate of the Lusitania.

The effect of such a statement, if borne out by an investigation which this Government has started, cannot be other than complicating and fraught with grave possibilities. It dissipates the feeling that Germany, irrespective of her evasive diplomatic correspondence, had in fact changed her policy and intended to safeguard American lives on the high seas.

The State Department so far lacks official knowledge of the details of the attack upon the Orduna, but unofficial reports present a grave charge against the commander of the German submarine, and likewise his government, unless the attack without warning is disavowed.

If it is true that no warning was given, either by megaphone, shots across the bow of the Orduna or flags, Germany has again contravened the principles enunciated by this Government in its notes on the Lusitania outrage, and has once more declined to follow international law.

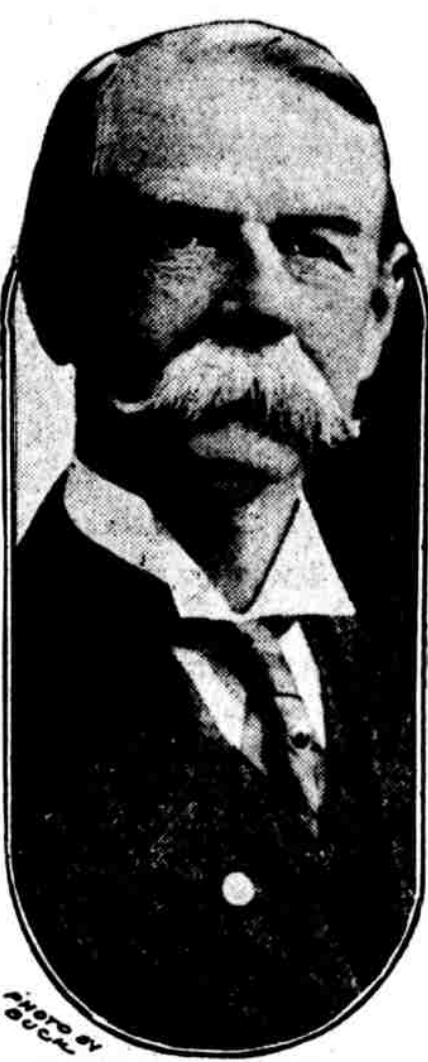
### LANSING AWAITS OFFICIAL REPORT.

Regardless of whether a vessel carries contraband, it is the contention of the United States that Germany's right of action extends only to visit, search, and seizure, and that a submarine attack cannot be justified except when the suspected vessel resists.

Prior to the receipt of the reports of the Orduna attack, there had been a noticeable improvement in the German situation. It was regarded as possible that while Germany might not accept in a formal communication all the contentions of the United States, she was preparing to furnish oral assurances of her intention to safeguard American lives. It was hoped that by her acts, if not by words,

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Assistant to Board  
Of Rulers of D. C.



DR. WILLIAM TINDALL.

## GOMPERS HINTS AT BRIBES BY GERMANS

Strike Will Not Be Manipulated  
for European Belligerents,  
He Says.

That the American Federation of Labor is aware of certain activities of secret German agents, believed to be at the bottom of the strike troubles in the ammunition factories in this country, is the statement accredited President Samuel Gompers.

Although he refuses to discuss his plans, it is reported he is getting ready to take steps to offset the unrest brought about by the agitators who hope by fostering labor troubles to tie up the munition supplies of the allies.

Referring to the trouble in the New England factories, the president of the American Federation of Labor is quoted as saying:

"I have reason to believe that the Bridgeport trouble will be settled peacefully in a few days. On my recent trip to New York, I conferred with a number of labor leaders involved."

Indicating his belief that bribe money was offered in the Bridgeport strike, which has so far involved 2,000 workmen, he continued:

"Labor organizations and disputes will not be permitted to be manipulated."

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## ENGLISH EARL GETS THREATENING NOTES

Orkney Leaves Chicago for Canada—Warned to Stop Operating for Britain.

CHICAGO, July 18.—The Earl of Orkney, who, with Foxhall Keene, spent a week in Chicago buying horses for the British government, left here early today for Canada after receiving letters in which the writer threatened him with death if he continued his operations.

The first letter arrived at the Blackstone an hour after the earl registered. The last was handed to him a short time before he left the hotel. It stated that the earl's destination in Canada was known and that he would be assassinated there if he persisted in aiding his government.

The letters were turned over to Federal officials. The police were notified, and during his stay in Chicago the earl was accompanied wherever he went by two detective sergeants and two men from the Department of Justice.

He canceled all social engagements and closed taxicabs were used when either the earl or Keene left the hotel. The last was sent to Keene, but officials working on the case fear that if he is left unattended the crank following the earl might attempt to break his vengeance upon him.

Free Dancing at Great Falls, Va.—Advt. piece.

## TINDALL STEPS DOWN AS AIDE TO D. C. BOARD; NAMED IN 1878

Daniel J. Donovan, Former  
Deputy Auditor, Slated for  
Promotion to Be Secretary  
to the Commissioners.

George M. Roberts to Be Named  
Superintendent of Play-  
grounds, With Sidney C.  
Cousins as Assistant.

Transfer affecting a half dozen employees at the Municipal building, including Dr. William Tindall, who has been secretary to the Board of Commissioners for thirty-seven years, are to be announced within a few days, it was learned today.

In the shifting process, Dr. Tindall will become assistant secretary to the Commissioners, and Daniel J. Donovan, former deputy auditor and temporary supervisor of playgrounds and superintendent of the bathing beach, will be named as secretary to the board.

Dr. Tindall assumes lighter duties at his own suggestion.

George M. Roberts, field investigator of industrial statistics in the Census Bureau, is slated, it is understood, for supervisor of playgrounds. Mr. Roberts also will have charge of the beach, which will be combined with the playgrounds department. The position pays \$2,500 a year.

### TO MANAGE BEACH.

Sidney C. Cousins, assistant superintendent of the beach, it is understood, will be made assistant to Mr. Roberts, and will have direct charge of the beach at a salary of \$600 a year.

Sidney Roche, chief clerk in the office of the Auditor, who was appointed deputy auditor at the time of transfer of Mr. Donovan to the playgrounds department, following the removal of Edgar S. Martin, will continue in that position. Other promotions in the clerical force announced then will be made permanent.

W. F. Meyer, assistant secretary to the board, will be given the position of (Continued on Seventh Page.)

## AUSTRIAN TRENCHES TAKEN BY ITALIANS

Victor Emmanuel's Troops  
Brave Deadly Hail of Shell.  
Moving on Lana Pass.

LONDON, July 18.—Braving a deadly hail of shot and shell from the Austrians, the Italian forces have stormed the heights leading from the Anduras and Agui valleys to the Lana Pass, capturing a series of Austrian trenches and gaining possession of positions in which they are now constructing fortifications.

This victory was achieved after the Italians had beaten down a brave and determined resistance offered by the Austrians on the approaches to the Lana Pass, particularly on the heights of Piazze.

ROME, July 18.—La Tribuna prints an amusing story of the destruction of a large whale off the island of Gozon.

When the whale was first sighted the signal officers ashore used the semaphore to announce the passage of a submarine. Divers were rushed to the scene and the whale was shot to pieces.

Slated as Head of  
Playgrounds Here



GEORGE M. ROBERTS.

## MURDERERS LEAVE VICTIM IN CHURCH

Dead Man, Spread Out Nude in  
Shape of Cross, Found on  
Altar With Hole in Head.

LOS ANGELES, July 18.—Murdered and spread out nude, in the shape of a cross, on the altar of St. Augustine's Church, the body of L. A. Miller, Los Angeles salesman, was found by a girl caretaker last night.

Death was caused by a spike being driven into Miller's head. A small hole was discovered in the middle of his brow. Nearby was a small vial of colorless fluid. Handkerchiefs, scattered on the ground outside the church, were probably used to tie the man's hands and feet before death.

The man's clothing was carefully draped over the altar railing. His name was written in indelible ink on each garment. No watch or money was found.

### Came Through Vestry.

Entrance to the church had evidently been gained through the vestry room adjoining the chancel. The outer door of the vestry was open. It gives direct entrance on to a corn field and a few paces from it the police found marks indicating that Miller had either been killed there or stunned by a blow and his body dragged into the church. That a number of men participated in the crime is thought probable owing to the trampled condition of the earth around the vestry door. Several chairs had been placed near the inner door of the vestry, indicating that the murderers sat there and peered into the chancel.

Detectives are working on a theory that Miller was seized by a gang, taken into the church, "spread eagled" on the altar steps, gagged and then killed at the criminals' leisure.

### Investigate History.

To find a motive for this sort of a crime, the police are inquiring into Miller's past history.

Another theory is that Miller was killed for purposes of robbery and his body left on the altar steps in a spirit of bravado.

Laura Machaeo, fourteen, caretaker of the church, discovered the body when she went there to clean and sweep up for today's service. Miller had been dead some time.

## Ross Perry's Funeral Plans Are Incomplete

Arrangements for the funeral of R. Ross Perry, the Washington attorney who died yesterday afternoon from a self-inflicted bullet wound, had not been completed this afternoon.

Members of the family announced that no details had yet been made. It is understood, however, that services will be held at the family residence at 105 Massachusetts avenue, northwest tomorrow afternoon, and burial will be at Rock Creek Cemetery.

## CONSPIRACY DENIED, BUT VICTIM CRIES 'THEY'VE GOT ME!'

"Life-Termer" Crawls Under Cots On Prison  
Farm and Attacks Convicted Murderer  
of Mary Phagan With Butcher Knife,  
Nearly Cutting Head Off.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., July 18.—Leo M. Frank, from whose neck the noose slipped when Governor Slaton commuted his sentence to life imprisonment four weeks ago, is near death at the State prison farm here today, with his jugular vein cut by a fellow-prisoner.

Frank's throat was slashed while he lay asleep on his cot last midnight. William Creen, another life-termer, was the assailant and today is in irons.

Warden James E. Smith says there was no plot against Frank and Creen's action was self-inspired.

Outcroppings of animosity toward Frank since he came to the prison, the cry of the Atlanta mob for his life, the threats against Governor Slaton and public opinion generally constitute, however, indications that Creen may have been an instrument to carry out threats of vengeance against the convicted murderer of little Mary Phagan, the factory girl.

"At the moment I thought I was doing what was right," said Creen, in a statement to the warden. "I am sorry now."

"I guess they've got me," said Frank as the doctors arrived. The use of the word "they" by the desperately wounded man conveyed the impression that he believed Creen's attack was the result of general animosity or a plot against him.

### CONVICT'S ATTACK BRUTAL.

The convict's attack upon Frank was brutal. Creen slipped up to the cot of Frank and drew a jagged-edged butcher knife across his victim's throat, nearly cutting off his head. Creen was overpowered before he could wield the knife a second time.

Frank's wife was at the prison farm, and held her husband's hands while physicians worked, in the early morning hours to save his life.

While Frank was on the operating table, Creen was brought before Warden Smith and other prison officials.

He made the following statement:

"I'm awfully sorry that I did this. At the moment I thought I was doing what was right. I thought that I was doing something that ought to be done."

"If I had to do it again I wouldn't do it for anything in the world. I am specially sorry that I attacked Frank, now that I realize the seriousness of the crime. I am sorry because of the criticism it may bring on the officials of the State farm, especially Warden Smith. I wouldn't do a thing in the world to injure him in his position. He had confidence in me and I have violated that confidence. I am ready to suffer the consequences."

Creen was questioned to some extent as to how he attacked Frank. He said that Frank lay asleep in the bed in the dormitory of the prison where there were a hundred others. He slipped up behind Frank in the darkness and slashed his throat.

Immediately after Creen had made his statement he was taken to the basement of the prison where he was placed in solitary confinement. He was also put in irons. The cell in which he is confined is of concrete and steel. It is practically a dungeon, although not so termed by prison officials.

### NO CHANGE IN CONDITION.

Physicians at the Georgia State penitentiary at Milledgeville reported at 7 o'clock that there had been no change in the condition of Frank since the completion of the operation at 2 o'clock. Warden James E. Smith expressed the opinion that Frank would survive, although the physicians would go no further than to say that he has